

providing automatic and continuing iterative evaluation of whether said condition is fulfilled until said condition is fulfilled once independent of whether data affecting said condition changes;

automatically performing said task when said condition is fulfilled once; and

resuming further processing only after said condition is fulfilled once.

2. (once amended) A method for automatically executing a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and for automatically performing the task whenever the condition is fulfilled comprising:

entering said decisional rule into computing means;

compiling said decisional rule to parse said condition;

providing automatic and continuing iterative evaluations of whether said condition is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes;

automatically performing said task whenever said condition is fulfilled; and

resuming further processing each time said condition is fulfilled.

3. (once amended) A method for automatically executing a decisional rule containing a task and a condition containing a period of time which must be satisfied before the task can be performed and automatically performing the task every time the condition is fulfilled comprising:

entering said decisional rule into computing means;

compiling said decisional rule to parse said condition;

providing automatic and continuing iterative evaluations of whether said condition is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes;

automatically performing said task every time said time period is satisfied; and

resuming processing each time said task is performed.

4. (twice amended) A method for automatically executing a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and for automatically performing the task whenever the condition is fulfilled comprising:

entering said decisional rule into computing

means;

compiling said decisional rule to parse said condition;

providing automatic and continuing iterative evaluations of whether said condition is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes;

determining whether the status of said condition has changed between each said iterative evaluation;

automatically performing said task whenever both said condition is fulfilled and said status has changed; and resuming processing each time both said condition is fulfilled and the status of said condition has changed.

5. (once amended) A system for automatically evaluating a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and automatically performing the task when the condition is fulfilled comprising:

computing means including compiler means and executor means responsive to said compiler means; and

means for entering [to enter] one or more said decisional rules into said computing means, said decisional rule containing a condition and a task to be performed when said condition is fulfilled,

said compiler means including parsing means for

isolating said condition and further including means for determining whether evaluations of said condition are to continue after said condition is fulfilled once;

said executor means including means for providing automatic and continuing iterative evaluations of whether said condition is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes.

10. (once amended) A method for automatically evaluating a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and for automatically performing the task when the condition is fulfilled comprising:

combining sequences of statements including decisional rules into bundles;

entering said bundles into computing means; compiling each said decisional rule to parse said conditions to determine for each decisional rule whether evaluations of said decisional rule are to continue after said condition associated with each said rule is fulfilled once; and

providing automatic and continuing iterative evaluations of whether said conditions are fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes.

16. (twice amended) A method for automatically processing a series of statements including commands which automatically halt further processing until a condition associated with each command is fulfilled comprising:

entering a sequence of when/then statements including one or more control commands each containing a condition into processing means;

processing each statement sequentially in said sequence;

halting processing of said statements upon the occurrence of a said control command;

automatically and continuously providing iterative evaluations of whether said condition associated with said control is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes; and

resuming processing of the remainder of said statements in said sequence only upon the fulfillment of said condition associated with said control command.

18. (twice amended) A system for automatically processing a series of statements including commands which automatically halt further processing until a condition associated with each command is fulfilled comprising:

input means for entry of a sequence of statements including one or more control commands each containing a condition;

compiler means, responsive to said input means, for recognizing the input of said control commands;

processor means, responsive to said compiler, for sequentially processing each said statement;

means, responsive to said compiler means and said processor means, for halting processing of said statements upon the occurrence of a said command;

means for providing automatic and continuous iterative evaluations of whether said condition associated with said control command is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes; and

means to resume processing of the remainder of said statements in said sequence only upon the fulfillment of said condition associated with said control command.

20. (once amended) A system including means for executing a decisional rule which performs a task upon the fulfillment of a condition, the system providing automatic and continuous iterative evaluations of whether a condition is fulfilled until the condition is fulfilled at least once, and which performs the iterative evaluation independent of whether data affecting the condition changes, and which resumes any further processing only after the condition is fulfilled once, which automatically programs the system in order to achieve continuing recursive evaluation of the conditions contained within said decisional rule.

21. (once amended) A system including means for executing a decisional rule which performs a task upon the fulfillment of a condition, the system providing automatic and continuous iterative evaluations of whether the condition is fulfilled until the condition is fulfilled at least once and which resumes any further processing only after the condition is fulfilled once; and

means for automatically iteratively evaluating whether the condition of said decisional rule is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting the condition changes thereby eliminating the need for manually providing additional decisional rules which force sequential evaluation in programming loops.

22. (once amended) A method for automatically executing a manually entered decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and for automatically performing the task whenever the condition is fulfilled comprising:

automatically compiling said decisional rule to parse said condition;

automatically providing computer instructions which accomplish automatic and continuous iterative evaluations of whether said condition is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting the condition changes;

automatically performing said task whenever said

condition is fulfilled; and

resuming further processing each time said condition is fulfilled.

23. (once amended) A method for automatically executing a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and for automatically performing the task whenever the condition is fulfilled comprising:

manually entering said decisional rule into computing means;

said computing means automatically compiling said decisional rule to parse said condition, automatically providing instructions which accomplish automatic and continuous iterative evaluations of whether said condition is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting the condition changes and, automatically performing said task whenever said condition is fulfilled and resuming further processing each time said condition is fulfilled.

24. (once amended) A system for automatically evaluating a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and automatically performing the task when the condition is fulfilled comprising:

computing means including compiler means and

executor means responsive to said compiler means; and means for manually entering said decisional rule into said computing means, said decisional rule containing a condition and a task to be performed when said condition is fulfilled once; and

wherein said compiler means includes parsing means for isolating said condition and further includes means for determining whether evaluation of said condition are to continue after said condition is fulfilled once; and

wherein said executor means includes means for providing automatically and continuing iterative evaluations of whether said condition is fulfilled independent of whether data affecting said condition changes.

REMARKS

The examiner's patience regarding the subject application is appreciated. The applicant has now thoroughly reviewed the Perkins reference, discussed that reference with Mr. Perkins, and analyzed a number of other supporting references discussed herein in order to fully evaluate the scope of the Perkins reference.

In August 1997, inventor Don Eyles reached Walton Perkins by telephone. Don Eyles asked Mr. Perkins to describe how WHEN rules were implemented in the LES system described in the Perkins reference. Mr. Perkins stated that WHEN rules are attached to the slot in which an object-